



**Congressman**

# Wally Herger

**Reports from Washington**

**107th Congress - First Session**

**Volume Three**

## ***America's War on Terrorism***

Dear Friends,

On September 11, 2001 we were shocked as the largest attack on American soil in our history unfolded before our eyes. In the span of a few minutes, our country was awakened to a new threat, one that strikes without warning and feels no remorse for the destruction of innocent lives. Thousands of Americans and other citizens from around the world died that day because of an assault on western civilization - acts that will forever be regarded as evil.

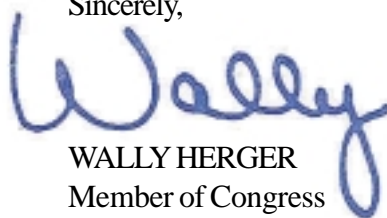
Yet out of this tragedy, the bonds that hold us together as Americans have only strengthened. The forces that would divide us have given way to unity and a drive to stamp out terrorism at its source. Evidence that we have come together can be seen everywhere in Northern California. Shasta County firefighters and residents collected money for a victims relief fund. Elementary students in Oroville sold pumpkins to benefit the children of Afghanistan. From the flag hung proudly on the side of a barn to the "United We Stand" poster on the entrance of a restaurant, everywhere in the North State, signs of patriotism are prominent.

And there is good reason for us to remember what it means to be an American. Our country is at war with terrorism. Our objectives are clearly defined. We must defend America against future attacks. We must hunt down the terrorists before they strike again. As both the Chief Executive and Commander-in-Chief, President George W. Bush is responsible for organizing our recovery and national security efforts, as well as exacting justice on those who committed these terrible acts. Congress is charged with providing the resources for him to do so. Shortly after the attacks, the House and Senate approved \$40 billion in emergency spending for relief efforts and our military response. Congress also approved the President's request for military action against terrorists and countries that harbor them. Working fast to address further stress on America's economy, already in a downturn, the House passed an economic security bill that offers both tax relief and expanded unemployment insurance. We have also worked to make our skies safe by passing aviation security legislation.

In early October, our armed forces began to strike back against terrorism with an aerial bombardment of suspected and known terrorist enclaves in Afghanistan. Since then, the war has expanded. The Taliban is learning every day the cost of harboring Osama bin Laden and his *al Qaeda* terrorist organization. Eventually, there will be nowhere left for them to hide.

We will not soon forget the events of early September. Nor should we. Through this tragedy we are renewing our values and restoring the principles that make the nation great. The strength of our resolve will serve as a stern warning to those who would threaten the United States of America.

Sincerely,

  
WALLY HERGER  
Member of Congress



## **Inside this Issue**

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# America Fights Terrorism Overseas

## Response Timeline

9/11/01	Terrorists attack the Pentagon and World Trade Center using passenger jets. America is put on highest alert.
9/14/01	President Bush declares this conflict "was begun on the timing and terms of others. It will end in a way, and at an hour, of our choosing."
9/17/01	U.S. begins mobilization of armed forces near Afghanistan. Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld: "...only answer is to take the effort to them where they are."
9/20/01	President issues demands to the Taliban. "They will hand over the terrorists, or they will share in their fate."
10/7/01	Strategic air strikes begin in Taliban and terrorist controlled areas of Afghanistan.
11/2/01	Secretary Rumsfeld declares that Taliban is no longer operating as a government in Afghanistan.
11/12/01	Northern Alliance forces capture Kabul. U.S. Special Forces help secure city and restore peace.

began plans for a comprehensive retaliation on the perpetrators of this crime, asking our military to "be ready." On September 19, our U-2 surveillance aircraft squadrons received new deployment orders from the Pentagon. Shortly thereafter, the high altitude spy planes departed Beale Air Force Base, near Marysville, destined for the skies above Afghanistan. Their mission: provide our military with detailed regional intelligence.

Less than two weeks later, air strikes on the major cities and supply lines of the Taliban began, including suspected and known *al Qaeda* camps. Throughout the end of October and into November, Afghan opposition forces have been bolstered by America Special Forces ground troops. Once held by the Taliban, the cities of Mazar-e Sharif and Kabul have fallen to the Northern Alliance. A new government is close at hand. Alongside military preparations, the President has also stressed the importance of building a strong, wide-ranging international coalition to support the War on Terrorism. Understanding of the threat terrorism poses to all freedom-loving nations, more than 120 countries have condemned the attacks on America. To date, nearly 40 have pledged support. Many have placed their military, intelligence and humanitarian aid networks at our disposal.

"These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of America's resolve."

## Operation Enduring Freedom: Frontline Afghanistan



Following the events of September 11, 2001 our armed forces were deployed in defense of our country, evidence that acts of terrorism against the United States will not be allowed to stand. The main theater of allied attacks during "Operation Enduring Freedom," Afghanistan is nearly 10,000 miles from Northern California and almost completely inaccessible by commercial travel. Afghanistan is also home to a regime that harbors a poisonous anti-American sentiment that strikes from the shadows and rejoices in the suffering of our people. As the President said on the day of the attacks, these acts have **"shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of America's resolve."**

Years of regional strife gave rise to the oppressive Taliban regime. Brutal and autocratic in its methods, they based their authority on an intolerant interpretation of the Muslim religion. Its fanatical belief in the medieval notion of *Jihad* as a literal "holy war" against non-Muslims, has been all but universally discarded by Muslims worldwide as incorrect and extreme. Afghan instability has led to a partnership between known terrorist Osama bin Laden and those in the Taliban who harbor him, threatening our own national security.

It was with this in mind that, in the days following the attacks on our country, President Bush

As the Afghan campaign continues - Phase One in the War on Terrorism - we must remain committed to our mission abroad. Justice will be served. Whether our front line troops are from Northern California, or elsewhere in the world, we should remember the words of the President: **"We must take the battle to the enemy and we must stop them."**

Pictured at the Mountain View School in Redding, Congressman Herger addressed a student assembly. Herger spoke frankly about the September 11 attacks and our objectives in the War on Terrorism.

Photo from Page One: With the help of a ladder truck, Shasta County firefighters carry the American flag high above local crowds at a recent charity event in Redding. (Courtesy Michelle Meadville, City of Redding)





# Homeland Defense



Students at the Wyandotte Avenue Elementary School in Oroville raised money to benefit the President's "Afghan Children's Fund" by selling pumpkins donated by a local area farm. Congressman Herger was presented with a check for the total amount, to be delivered to the White House.

## Domestic Response to Terrorism



**DIRECTOR RIDGE**

Since the attacks, America has wrestled with new priorities. We must defend our country and defend our freedoms. The effects of September 11 can be seen around Northern California and in our daily lives. We have given our blood and our money to relief efforts. On the evening news we watch as federal agents arrest terrorist suspects.

In Northern California, Beale Air Force Base and the Sierra Army Depot are on high alert and have tightened security to protect those military and civilian personnel on base. Security is also up at local area dams and power plants. We can see evidence all around us that our nation is at "high alert," leaving no question that effective communication between law enforcement agencies is essential.

Shortly after the attacks, President Bush proposed a new cabinet-level agency to oversee our domestic response to terrorism. Directed by former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) has oversight into the recovery and defense operations of federal agencies like the National Security Council, the FBI, the CIA, the Department of Justice and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

For the past three months, the Department of Justice has worked diligently to find terrorists within the United States, especially those with connections to the September 11 attacks. Thus far, there have been over 1,000 related arrests. Thousands of investigators from different agencies are working to uncover terrorist financing sources, freezing those bank accounts and cracking down on terrorist fundraising organizations, such as illegitimate charities and underground banks. Our message is clear: we will not allow those who would intimidate us to share in our freedoms.

The government is also making efforts to close our borders to terrorists entering the United States by addressing administrative problems at the INS and increasing patrols along our 5,600 mile border with Canada. As our President said, **"we are slowly but surely tightening the noose, and we will be victorious."**

One of the more recent objectives of the OHS has been defense against biological terrorism. Director Ridge and

his staff have worked in close contact with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to protect Americans who may have been exposed to the anthrax bacterium. Announcements of plausible threats allow us to better prepare for potential attacks. Because of recent events, officials are increasing supplies of important antibiotics and vaccines.

As the War on Terrorism is fought in our homeland, we will take comfort in the knowledge that terrorists are on the run. The chase is on and our pursuit is just. Defending the United States is our top priority. The security and safety of all Americans is uppermost in mind.

The President said, **"there is a difference between being frightened and being alert."** And we will not be frightened. As we continue with our daily lives, the spectacle of our triumphs against terrorism will give us momentary pause. The rewards for our national perseverance will be victory and lasting freedom from fear.

For more information about government resources devoted to the domestic War on Terrorism, log on to <http://www.firstgov.gov>.

## Spotlight on Global Hawk



The Department of Defense recently announced the use of the Global Hawk Unmanned Aerial Reconnaissance

Vehicle (UAV) in the Afghan theater to provide our troops with up-to-date battlefield intelligence. While the first production models are currently housed at Edwards Air Force Base, Global Hawk will arrive in Northern California in 2003 to be permanently based alongside its U-2 relative at Beale Air Force Base.

The state-of-the-art spy plane is already earning its wings in the War on Terrorism. Capable of flying longer and at higher altitudes than the U-2, Global Hawk will serve both our armed forces and our Northern California community with pride.



For more information on President Bush's initiatives and the Office of Homeland Security, log on to <http://www.whitehouse.gov>.



## United We Stand

The Stars and Stripes hang resolutely on the side of an Oroville barn, reminding us that America's spirit is strong in Northern California and around the United States.

For additional legislative information, please log on to <http://www.gop.gov>.



## Legislative Update

Following the terrorist attacks, Congress and the President worked together to pass a number of pieces of legislation aimed at recovery and response to the threat of terrorism.

- **H.R. 2888, Emergency Supplemental FY 2001 Appropriations** - Immediately following the attacks on America, Congress approved \$40 billion in emergency funding aimed at recovery efforts and increased military spending to combat terrorism. **Signed into Law.**

- **H.R. 3162, the PATRIOT Act** - Expands information gathering capabilities of the Department of Justice for use in investigations connected to terrorism and terrorist activity in the United States. **Signed into Law.**

- **H. Con. Res. 248** - Expresses a sense of Congress approving of the display of the words "God Bless America" in primary and secondary schools. **Passed in House.**

- **H.J. Res. 64, Authorization for Use of Military Force** - Gives President Bush the power to use military action against any nation, organization or persons determined responsible for the attacks of September 11. **Passed by House and Senate.**

• **H.R. 3150, Aviation Security Bill** - Improves aviation passenger safety and luggage screening procedures. In addition to more federal marshals on flights, the bill adds stronger cockpit doors in planes and better trained law enforcement presence at airports. **Passed in House.**

- **H.R. 3090, Economic Security and Recovery Act** Provides \$100 billion in immediate economic security to businesses and families impacted by the attacks. Accelerates many of the tax relief provisions in the President's economic stimulus bill from earlier this year. **Passed in House. Pending in Senate.**

- **H.R. 3004, the Financial Antiterrorism Act** - Allows the Department of Treasury to investigate and seize the accounts of terrorists banking and fundraising within the United States. **Signed into Law as part of Patriot Act.**

### NOTICE ABOUT MAIL DELIVERY

Normal delivery of mail to the House of Representatives was suspended on Monday, October 15, 2001 due to the discovery of anthrax in the Capitol complex. This delay has resulted in increased mail response times. Please be assured your input is important to me. Should you wish to contact me by regular mail, please send all letters to the district offices in Chico or Redding.  
Thank you for your patience.

Congressman  
**Wally Herger**



Congress of the United States  
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*Wally Herger*  
M.C.  
Presorted Standard

***Reports from Washington***  
**AMERICA'S WAR ON TERRORISM**